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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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Gordon P. Eaton, Director

Reston, VA 20192

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For information, contact:

Patricia A. Plunkert, Commodity Specialist

Telephone: (703) 648-4979, Fax: (703) 648-7757

E-mail: [pplunker@usgs.gov](mailto:pplunker@usgs.gov)

Micheal George (Data), (703) 648-7962

MINES FaxBack: (703) 648-4999

Internet: <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals>

## ALUMINUM IN JULY 1997

Domestic primary aluminum production in July was 305,219 metric tons. The average daily production rate was 9,846 tons, slightly lower than that for the previous month but 1% higher than the rate for July 1996.

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased from 75.5 cents per pound in June to 76.3 cents per pound in July, according to *Platt's Metals Week*. According to *American Metal Market*, the buying price for processed aluminum used beverage can (UBC) scrap increased by a penny a pound in late July to a range of 58 to 60 cents per pound and remained at that level through the end of the month. According to *Resource Recycling's Container Recycling Report*, the monthly average transaction price for aluminum UBC's increased from 58.5 cents per pound in June to 59.2 cents per pound in July.

### U.S. Trade Through June

Total imports for consumption of aluminum for the first half of 1997 increased 8% compared with those for the first half of 1996. Imports were higher in all three subcategories detailed in table 6. The largest percentage increase (13%) appeared in the plates, sheets, bars, etc. category; whereas the largest tonnage increase (73,500 tons) was in the crude metal and alloys category.

Total U.S. exports of aluminum for the first 6 months of 1997 also increased and were approximately 3% above those for the first half of 1996.

### National Defense Stockpile (NDS) Sale

On August 6, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) announced the sale of 9,389 tons (10,350 short tons) of aluminum metal from the NDS. The value of the metal sold was \$16.6 million (Defense Logistics Agency, 1997a).

The 1997 Defense Authorization Act authorized the DLA to

sell the entire inventory of 57,045 tons (62,882 short tons) of aluminum metal from the NDS. Sales began on April 15 and, as of August 6, had totaled 48,146 tons (53,072 short tons).

On August 19, the DLA announced that the September sale of aluminum metal would be postponed to October 7, at which time the approximately 8,900 tons (9,800 short tons) of metal remaining in the NDS will be offered for sale (Defense Logistics Agency, 1997b).

### Update

The monthly average market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 80.1 cents per pound in August. In early August, the *American Metal Market* buying price range for aluminum UBC scrap increased by a penny to 59 to 61 cents per pound. On August 19, the price range narrowed to 59 to 60 cents per pound and remained at that level through August 28.

### Publication of Interest

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Industrial Technologies released a report entitled *Energy and Environmental Profile of the U.S. Aluminum Industry*, prepared by Energetics, Inc., of Columbia, MD. The report covers all areas of the industry from alumina production through semifabrication and also includes the secondary aluminum industry. Copies of the report may be obtained by calling the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Clearinghouse at 1-800-DOE-EREC.

### References Cited

- Defense Logistics Agency, 1997a, Stockpile accepts aluminum bids: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, August 6, 2 p.  
———, 1997b, Stockpile sets next aluminum sale for October 7, 1997: Ft. Belvoir, VA, Defense Logistics Agency news release, August 19, 1 p.

TABLE 1  
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery 2/			Imports for consumption			Total new supply 3/	Total stocks end of period 4/
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
1996: 5/	3,577	1,710	1,570	3,290	1,910	498	2,410	9,270	1,830
1996:									
July	301	145	130	274	139	45	184	760	1,960
August	302	143	138	281	149	45	194	777	1,910
September	292	144	130	275	136	43	179	746	1,890
October	304	156	137	293	170	45	215	812	1,840
November	295	143	130	273	147	41	188	756	1,830
December	305	147	128	276	180	39	219	800	1,830
Jan.-July	2,078	1,030	886	1,920	1,130	284	1,410	5,410	1,960
1997:									
January	305	161	139	299	145	42	188	792	1,840
February	277	154	133	287	147	37	184	748	1,830
March	307	162	143	305	209	48	257	869	1,810
April	295	162	143	305	196	48	244	844	1,810
May	304	160	137	297	198	49	247	849	1,770
June	296	161	135	297	167	47	214	806	1,790
July	305	168	141	309	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Jan.-July	2,091	1,130	971	2,100	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

3/ Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

4/ Includes scrap; data from Current Industrial Reports, Series M33D, U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

5/ Includes monthly and annual data.

TABLE 2  
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery	Con-sump-tion	Metal recovery
1996: 2/	1,580	1,210	1,410	1,250	780	720	105	93	11	10	3,880	3,290
1996:												
July	124	101	110	97	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	274
August	125	102	123	109	66	61	9	8	1	1	324	281
September	125	101	110	98	73	67	9	8	1	1	317	275
October	125	102	125	111	77	71	9	9	1	1	337	293
November	125	101	113	101	68	63	9	8	(3/)	(3/)	315	273
December	124	100	113	100	72	67	9	8	1	1	318	276
Jan.-July	867	703	823	733	459	423	63	57	4	4	2,220	1,920
1997:												
January	142	109	126	113	77	71	7	6	1	1	353	299
February	141	108	116	104	75	69	7	6	(3/)	(3/)	339	287
March	142	109	132	116	80	74	7	6	(3/)	(3/)	361	305
April	144	111	129	114	79	73	7	7	1	1	359	305
May	143	110	124	110	75	70	8	7	1	1	351	297
June	143	110	125	111	75	69 r/	7	6	1	1	350	297
July	144	111	129	114	82	76	8	7	1	1	364	309
Jan.-July	999	767	881	782	543	502	50	44	4	4	2,480	2,100

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes monthly and annual data.

3/ Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 3  
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED  
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN JULY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	120,000	144,000	92,600	111,000
Integrated aluminum companies	129,000	129,000	114,000	114,000
Independent mill fabricators	68,500	82,100	63,600	76,300
Foundries	6,740	8,090	5,770	6,930
Other consumers	652	783	652	783
Total	325,000	364,000	277,000	309,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4  
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN  
JULY 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Net receipts 2/	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing
New scrap:				
Solids	25,800 r/	86,800	82,400	30,200
Can stock clippings	6,080	33,000	31,400	7,670
Other clippings	5,800 r/	15,400	15,400	5,780
Borings and turnings	5,550	19,400	19,400	5,550
Dross and skimmings	3,120	28,000	28,100	3,070
Total new scrap	46,400	183,000	177,000	52,200
Old scrap:				
Used casting, sheet, and clippings	31,600 r/	55,500	55,400	31,700
Aluminum-copper radiators	1,050	1,500	1,460	1,090
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	24,900	88,000	85,500	27,500
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	W	W	W	W
Other	1,170	5,150	5,150	1,170
Total old scrap	58,700 r/	150,000	148,000	61,400
Sweated pig	1,280 r/	790	790	1,280
Total all classes	106,000	334,000	325,000	115,000

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other."

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5  
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS  
IN THE UNITED STATES IN JULY 1997 1/ 2/

(Metric tons)

	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing
Die cast alloys:				
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	3,570	6,330	6,280	3,620
380 and variations	12,400	40,100	40,100	12,400
Sand and permanent mold:				
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	13,100	1,920	1,920	13,100
No. 319 and variations	3,050	10,900	10,900	3,060
F-132 alloy and variations	1,940 r/	2,690	2,690	1,940
Al-Zn alloys	453 r/	225	225	453
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	196 r/	802	802	196
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	60	77	77	60
Other 3/	2,770	7,600	6,630	3,750
Wrought alloys:				
Extrusion billets	5,570	13,000	13,000	5,500
Total all alloys	43,100 r/	83,600	82,600	44,100
Less:				
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	5,480	XX	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	6,530	XX	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	443	XX	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot 4/	XX	71,100	XX	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

4/ No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6  
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June
Argentina	--	5,560	123	285	76	1,840	199	7,680
Australia	169	1,100	88	294	107	949	364	2,340
Bahrain	--	--	1,070	4,570	--	--	1,070	4,570
Belgium	11	47	375	2,680	--	117	385	2,840
Bosnia and Herzegovina	--	--	--	17	--	--	--	17
Brazil	3,000	13,300	54	93	--	62	3,050	13,400
Canada	120,000	725,000	27,900	165,000	22,500	119,000	170,000	1,010,000
Croatia	--	--	56	215	--	--	56	215
Czech Republic	--	--	12	35	--	--	12	35
France	25	171	974	4,550	432	2,960	1,430	7,680
Germany	164	370	2,290	14,500	7	1,150	2,470	16,000
Ghana	1,160	1,160	--	--	--	--	1,160	1,160
Hungary	--	4	147	1,270	--	--	147	1,280
Italy	--	--	275	1,490	--	16	275	1,510
Japan	--	125	1,460	8,760	124	421	1,580	9,310
Korea, Republic of	--	29	124	232	134	1,370	258	1,630
Lithuania	--	17	--	--	--	--	--	17
Mexico	116	933	1,030	6,380	6,310	40,800	7,460	48,100
Netherlands	5	2,290	622	2,640	17	838	645	5,770
Norway	30	208	48	1,130	--	--	78	1,340
Russia	28,800	223,000	38	6,830	--	1,290	28,800	231,000
Slovakia	39	232	--	--	--	--	39	232
Slovenia	--	--	423	1,720	--	--	423	1,720
South Africa	3,060	7,240	577	2,120	--	581	3,640	9,950
Spain	2	3	1,450	5,780	--	7	1,450	5,790
Sweden	--	4,070	166	1,490	43	384	209	5,950
Switzerland	--	--	457	1,490	--	--	457	1,490
Ukraine	--	596	--	19	--	--	--	615
United Arab Emirates	--	--	--	--	211	910	211	910
United Kingdom	14	6,950	1,810	8,810	547	5,140	2,370	20,900
Venezuela	10,300	64,100	2,560	15,100	1,450	8,610	14,300	87,800
Other	59	5,060	2,640	13,900	4,320	26,800	7,020	45,700
Total	167,000	1,060,000	46,800	271,000	36,200	213,000	250,000	1,550,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 7  
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN JUNE 1997 1/

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June	June	Jan. - June
Australia	40	236	183	1,590	4	4	227	1,830
Belgium	--	7	1,330	6,340	20	118	1,350	6,460
Brazil	1	14	4,490	30,600	1	8	4,490	30,600
Canada	13,600	73,700	31,400	211,000	6,810	42,900	51,900	328,000
China	--	591	4,640	22,700	4,430	19,100	9,070	42,400
Czech Republic	--	--	10	15	--	--	10	15
Dominican Republic	--	(2/)	148	1,180	--	--	148	1,180
Estonia	--	3	--	9	--	--	--	12
France	67	148	416	2,400	--	5	483	2,550
Georgia	--	--	--	3	--	--	--	3
Germany	54	319	392	5,790	70	93	516	6,200
Hong Kong	563	2,050	2,110	8,800	2,240	16,000	4,910	26,800
India	--	1	(2/)	46	23	127	23	174
Israel	9	22	82	407	--	--	91	429
Italy	2	34	389	1,780	--	20	391	1,830
Japan	12,100	49,800	2,470	18,200	2,510	19,800	17,100	87,700
Korea, Republic of	1,520	8,220	2,830	14,600	2,230	16,200	6,580	39,000
Malaysia	--	89	357	3,070	732	1,260	1,090	4,420
Mexico	4,750	25,500	7,160	50,000	2,730	14,400	14,600	89,900
Netherlands	7	63	131	790	--	24	137	877
Russia	1	1	4	8	5	5	10	14
Saudi Arabia	--	3	2,650	12,300	--	--	2,650	12,300
Singapore	(2/)	84	223	1,880	13	37	236	2,000
Spain	--	6	276	1,640	42	78	318	1,720
Sweden	5	6	13	51	--	--	18	57
Taiwan	1,180	5,910	1,300	5,160	4,630	29,800	7,110	40,900
Thailand	159	1,490	593	3,790	81	863	834	6,140
Ukraine	--	--	8	8	--	--	8	8
United Kingdom	156	632	840	8,390	81	4,660	1,080	13,700
Venezuela	--	90	444	4,280	142	212	585	4,580
Other	591	1,840	4,420	34,700	372	1,850	5,380	38,400
Total	34,900	171,000	69,300	452,000	27,200	168,000	131,000	790,000

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census.